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**FARM**



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**REVIEW 1966**

**OUTLOOK 1967**

***Special Issue:***

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

**DAIRY PROSPECTS**

**WHEAT**

**JANUARY, 1967**

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THE MACDONALD LASSIE



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## THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

*For this special issue, we have asked Dr. D. L. MacFarlane, Chairman, Department of Agricultural Economics, Macdonald College, to contribute his views on the farm situation and on agricultural policy...*

# THE FARM SITUATION

1966 set records for cash farm income and for net farm income (take-home pay) in Canadian agriculture. This situation arose not only from very buoyant conditions in the Canadian economy but also from substantial increase in the exports of many farm products.

The Outlook on the following pages shows that farm prices, particularly in Eastern Canada, have been rising since early 1964 and have clearly out-paced farm costs. Although farm incomes are not high — they are far from it — the more favourable financial position of agriculture provides a great encouragement for the rationalization of the industry, for structural changes and improvements in farm practices. (By structural changes, we mean changes in the number and sizes of farms, investment of machinery, livestock numbers in relation to land area, and the agricultural labour force.) It is particularly significant that in June of this year the number of male workers on Canadian farms was 493,000 whereas it was 623,000 only five short years ago. It is scarcely surprising that we hear about labour shortages. On the other hand, the shortage of labour is itself leading to the increased mechanization and capital intensity of the industry and, with other adjustments, these are leading to an increase in output per worker. This best measures the success of the industry resolving its basic problems.

While 1966 was a good year for Canadian agriculture, it was a worrisome year for those who are concerned about inflation and what inflation does to an economy. Certainly, carried to extremes, it weakens the economy and leads to worsened conditions for future years. The Government acted fairly vigorously against the inflation and with a measure of success. The economy has clearly been cooled off. But whether the sharp increase in the cost of living which occurred in 1966 will be moderated in 1967 still remains to be seen. Certainly, the number of labour union contracts which have recently been negotiated with very substantial increases in wage rates would suggest that we may have to wait sometime for moderating effects to appear.

The general economic setting for agriculture has not been more favourable for many years. After some 30 years of largely futile efforts to rationalize the farm industry of the United States, the efforts of Government are beginning to show some results. More and more sectors of American agriculture have moved and are moving into a market-dominated, instead of a government-dominated position. After some 15 years of large surpluses of wheat, the United States stocks are now well below the strategic level established by the Secretary of Agriculture. In fact, until recent months, it appeared that the world might be heading for a wheat shortage. Then came the phenomenally large Canadian crop — 840 million bushels — and a record Russian crop. These will allay fears for another year or two. But the demand for food by a rapidly growing world population will in a few years, without doubt, out-strip the production capacity even of North America's very efficient grain production.

The large Canadian crop must be regarded as nothing short of a blessing to the whole world, whether we now have the arrangements to sell it or not. It is interesting in that in the United States encouragement is being given by the Government to have farmers put back in production one-half of the 60 million acres in the Soil Bank.

All these, and many other occurrences in world agriculture, provide grounds for a general optimism about Canadian agricultural prospects over the next few years. Recent studies have shown that in our most important farm products, Canada has a clear comparative advantage in an international setting. There is every advantage for Canada to encourage conditions of freer trade which would allow us to exploit our advantage.

*D. L. MacFarlane*



# FREE THE FARM INDUSTRY!

Two 1966 studies confirmed (as if further confirmation were needed) that Canada has a clear comparative advantage in the production of a fairly wide range of farm products. Comparative advantage here means that in terms of costs Canada could out-compete other major supplying countries in world markets — that is if access to these markets were freer or free. The moral of this finding is that there is a very great advantage for Canada's farmers and the Canadian Government in forgetting their protectionist thinking and setting out to exploit their economic advantage. This means, of course, Canada's adopting a posture showing willingness to negotiate tariff reductions on goods entering Canada. And the place to start might well be on purchased production requirements for which Canadian farmers pay more — and in many cases far more — than American farmers. Included are dairy and poultry equipment, other farm machinery and equipment not now duty free, protein feed supplements and even corn.

One of the studies referred to lists the following products on which Canada has a comparative advantage: small grains, oilseeds, live cattle, cheddar cheese and specialty pork products. The other lists small grains, oilseeds, dairy cattle, cheddar cheese, tobacco, turnips and some fruits.

The agricultural industries of the North Atlantic area have become so entangled in a mesh of (1) tariffs; (2) national price supports and production control programmes; (3) import quota arrangements; (4) European Economic Community negotiations for a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); (5) export subsidies and provision of credit for surplus disposal; (6) state trading; and (7) international commodity agreements that they have little opportunity to show where their real strengths lie. If we could sweep away, or more realistically, reduce the maze of restrictions, then Canadian agriculture would have an opportunity to greatly expand output of the products listed above and that in an economic context which would yield far higher financial returns than those experienced in recent years.

The timing for a review of our tariffs is very propitious. The whole climate of agriculture in an international context has changed in 1965 and 1966. The fact that farm prices, particularly of livestock and livestock products in Canada have increased moderately over the past 24 to 30 months is of the greatest importance. Farm prices in the United States have risen similarly. The prospect that this improvement will continue is equally important, since it would provide a very favourable climate in which these countries might address themselves to the many constructive possibilities for expansion of trade in farm products.

After a generation of largely futile efforts, U.S. farm programmes have in the past two years begun to affect supply and demand relationships for an increasing number of commodity groups. This has come about in part by the industrial prosperity of the 1960's accelerating adjustments within agriculture.

The U.S. wheat surplus has disappeared. It is most significant that surpluses of dairy products have disappeared, and will not likely re-occur. Add to this the fact that the livestock and fruit and vegetable sectors of American agriculture have for many years operated in an essentially free market climate. Here, then, we have in this greatest agricultural country, and the country whose domestic farm programmes were the greatest barrier to increased trade, a new situation — and one much more favourable to pursuing the objectives of freer trade.

The more developed countries are under strong pressure to open their markets on a wider basis to the export crops of the less developed countries. Limited progress has been made through the United Nations, but much remains to be achieved. It is quite possible that economic analysis would show that for some countries and some products this is the least expensive means for providing economic development assistance. Let Canada have a look.

The new international climate means that the forces of chances within agriculture will operate in a situation not characterized (as has been the case for forty-five years, with few short exceptions) by generally seriously depressed conditions in the farm industry. All of the above circumstances suggest that the present is a most propitious time to work seriously on efforts to move toward freer trade in agriculture. The industry now has the capacity to make the necessary adjustments to its own benefit, as well as to that of general welfare.

*D. L. MacFarlane*



# REVIEW '66 — OUTLOOK '67

**C.B. Haver**

**Lewis A. Fischer**

**David L. MacFarlane**

*Because of the increasing complexity of this business of farming, the staff of Macdonald College feel that an annual outlook statement provides important information on which to base management decisions. The Macdonald Farm Journal takes pleasure in presenting this annual outlook statement.*

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

Canadian economy advanced substantially in 1966. The total value of goods and services produced in the country, called the Gross National Product (GNP), is now estimated at \$57 billion for 1966. This is up nearly ten per cent from the \$52 billion in 1965. The average annual figure for the three-year period 1963 to 1965 was \$48 billion. In real terms, i.e. in constant dollars, the GNP increased by six per cent from 1965 to 1966. The balance of the increase in GNP was due to price increases.

Several basic factors are determinants of favourable economic conditions in 1966. The major stimulus came from a sharp rise in exports, particularly in the first quarter of the year. There were large gains in exports of wheat, basic metals, machinery and automobiles and parts. The latter resulted from the new automotive trade agreement with the United States.

Employment in all occupations was 7,303,000 in June, four per cent higher than a year earlier and the rate of unemployment was 3.7 per cent of the labour force compared with 4.2 per cent in 1965. Investment for new plant and equipment in the business sector showed a very substantial increase in 1966. The largest increase occurred in the mining and in the pulp and paper industries.

The Consumer Price Index rose by 4.3 per cent from September 1965 to September 1966, compared with a rise of 2.6 per cent over the corresponding period the year earlier. Thus inflation became a problem of national concern in 1966. This the Government met with a "tight money" policy or stringent credit controls. As a consequence, at the beginning of July loans of the chartered banks were only 8.5 per cent higher than a year earlier and in relative terms the liquid assets of the banks were down sharply compared to the year 1965.

Government expenditures are expected to show an increase of 13 per cent in 1966 as a result of the higher level of economic activity, and of increasing contributions to social welfare programmes. Large wage settlements exerted pressure on the economy; one of the results appears in decline of corporate profits, particularly in the latter part of the year.

The prospect for the Canadian economy for 1967 is for continued prosperity, but at a slower rate than in 1966. Already unemployment rates (December, 1966) are running ahead of the previous December. Specialists forecast nine per cent increase in government expenditure for

1967, a seven per cent rise in consumer spending and only a five per cent increase in capital spending. In view of all factors, a four to five per cent increase in real GNP seems to be a realistic prediction for 1967. With price increases expected to continue or even increase Canada could very well have a GNP of 62 billion dollars, or even more.

The close connection of the Canadian economy with that of the United States leads Canadian economists to be concerned with the economic prospects south of our border. The U.S. economy is dominated by the war in Asia, by inflation and by balance of payment difficulties. Yet expanding American output, more jobs, prospects for a more rapid rise in wage rates in 1967 bringing increased consumer buying power, might favourably influence imports from Canada. The importance of this factor is demonstrated by the fact that in the first quarter of 1966 almost three-quarters of the increase in exports of Canadian goods went to the United States. In general, the outlook for exports to the United States is very good. The United States usually takes 15 to 20 per cent of our agricultural exports and furnishes more than 50 per cent of our agricultural imports. Evidently, the agricultural policy of the United States bears substantial relevance to the Canadian farm economy. The elimination of burdensome stocks of grains has generally brightened the picture for U.S. agriculture in 1967. Declining stocks and growing concern about scarcity have led the U.S. Government to encourage farmers to grow more. Farmers are, however, concerned that prices might be weakened if production rises substantially. Consequently, farmers will not likely plant the acreage they are permitted. Thus, it is unlikely that Canadian farm products will encounter price reductions or/and unprecedented American competition on world markets in 1967.

About one-quarter of Canada's agricultural exports have gone to Britain. Shipments to this country might be affected to some extent by the anti-inflationary measures taken by the British government, and by the difficulty Britain is having in restricting wheat production.

The six countries unified in the European Economic Community absorb about 15 per cent of Canada's agricultural exports. Their agricultural policy is strongly protectionist. They have created a common internal agricultural market and a system of import levies (duties) aimed at equalizing Common Market and world prices. Canadian wheat exports are likely to maintain their strong market position due to their high quality. Other farm products,



however, have to face strong competition for the generally declining import market.

Since the end of World War II Japan has been an important customer of Canadian farm products. That country is now recovering from a recession and business activity is accelerating. Exports of Canadian wheat and oil seeds are likely to gain in volume in 1967.

Agreements with U.S.S.R., China, and Eastern European countries provide large markets for Canadian wheat. In 1966 the U.S.S.R. signed a three year contract for 336 million bushels and China for a maximum of 280 million bushels, with delivery over a similar period. In view of the very large crop in Russia and considerable Chinese purchases of Australian wheat we may not expect spectacular new contracts. However, the existing ones provide a stabilized market for Canadian wheat. And demands in the developing countries, based both on commercial and non-commercial arrangements are likely to increase rapidly.

## FARM PRICES AND FARM INCOMES

Farm incomes will reach a new record in 1966. While cash receipts from farming operations were up from \$3,214 million in 1963 to \$3,521 million in 1964 and to \$3,804 million 1965, it is estimated that they will exceed the four-billion-dollar mark in 1966. It is interesting to note the shift of sources of farm cash receipts which demonstrates a long-run trend in agriculture. In the pre-war period wheat sales accounted for about 40 per cent of all Canadian farm cash income but this percentage is around one quarter at the present time. The contribution of livestock rose from about 40 per cent to some 55 per cent during the same time period.

The farm prices of the farm products in Canada increased by more than four per cent for Quebec and by five per cent for Ontario, from September, 1965 to September, 1966. It is very significant that since January-May, 1964 farm prices in Quebec have risen by 17 per cent; and those of Ontario by 16 per cent. The prices of almost all products were higher in 1966 but there is a substantial difference in the increases as between field crops and animal products. The latter increased by eight per cent at wholesale levels in the past year while crop prices increased by only 1.5 per cent at the same level.

Farm expenses moved upward in 1966. The farm cost index rose by more than four per cent in the year. Farmers spent record amounts for fertilizers, and the cost of labour increased due to highest wage rates. Due to improved productivity and some abatement of the cost-price squeeze, the gain in gross income exceeds the increase in expenditures. It is expected that total net farm income of 1966 may reach close to two billion dollars as against 1.7 billion in 1965.

Most analysts now foresee a further increase in cash receipts from farming operations in 1967, with the increase being of a lower order than that registered for 1966. Increased shortage in hired farm labour, higher prices both for purchased operating inputs and for machinery, and the use of larger amounts of purchased inputs per acre are seen as determinants for higher expenditures. However, the expectation is for a continued increase in net income of farmers in 1967.

## DAIRY PROSPECTS

With total milk production almost constant since 1960 and with domestic consumption rising by some ten per cent over the same period Canada was on the verge of a situation where the market would have had to pay higher prices to get the milk required. Actually a butter shortage has threatened last spring — and the prospect is that

Canada will import butter within a few months. But the federal dairy policy of \$4.10 milk (at the factory) for 1966 put the government deeply into the dairy business. Annual subsidies will run at about \$90 million per year. This policy is a declaration of a cheap-food policy. The history of government intervention in the dairy industry is not all good — mistakes were made. One point should be made perfectly clear: the present policy is much more a consumer- than a farm-oriented policy. Perhaps with the sharp increase in the cost of living over the past



year, a consumer dairy policy was needed and is a good policy. But most Canadians, including most farmers, favour a market- rather than a government-oriented industry.

The 1966 dairy policy did not produce more milk. Total production fell fractionally over the past year, and the decline in the national dairy herd was not arrested. All categories of milk use showed increases in 1966 except butter and concentrated milk. Thus stocks of butter on November 1, 1966 were some 20 million pounds under the previous November.

The three-per-cent decline in the national dairy herd was accounted for by shortages of feed in the winter of 1965-66 and by profitable opportunities to sell animals for beef prior to the announcement of \$4.10. milk. After that there was a scramble to purchase cows with a resultant sharp increase in cow prices. This fact, plus the capitalization of higher Milk prices into land values which must be occurring, shows how policies to help the labour income of farmers are translated into gains to the owners of capital — and thus lost as income.

While drought adversely affected milk production in parts of Ontario, the situation was far less serious there in the previous year. Hay production was up slightly but will be in short supply in some areas this winter. This will be made worse than it otherwise would be by the general increase in the national dairy herd which must be under way.

The star performer in the dairy field continues to be cheddar cheese. Production in 1966 was 167 million pounds, up from 85 million pounds ten years ago. Domestic consumption in 1966 went over the six pounds per capita rate for the first time in recorded history. We have not met all requirements in the British market in recent years. Further with the U.S. dairy industry moving out from under government programmes to the free market, the country will be under an increasing obligation to remove or greatly enlarge its miniscule import quota on cheddar cheese. When this occurs the entire position of the Canadian dairy industry will change vastly — and for the better.

In the United States where milk is bid for in the



free market, manufacturing milk rose in price from \$3.35 to \$4.38 per hundred from September 1965 to September 1966. Something comparable would have happened in Canada. In any event these data do reflect a basic change in the dairy situation — one which was obscured in Canada.

For 1967. The build-up of the national dairy herd will take two to three years. Thus, little milk production will be realized in 1967 from this build-up. However, there is evidence that dairy farmers are increasing concentrate feeding — this is economic within the context of \$4.10 milk. Thus the expectation is for a slight increase in total milk production. Farm cash receipts from dairying were \$556 million in 1965. They are estimated at \$615 to \$635 for 1966, and should be higher for 1967.

## LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The livestock situation is expected to continue favorable as far as producers are concerned. However, consumers can expect some relief from the relatively high meat prices that have occurred this past year. Pork and poultry prices should definitely be lower, mutton and lambs should not change appreciably. Indeed, as we are becoming increasingly dependent of offshore supplies the price of mutton and lamb at the meat counter may be lower.

Livestock slaughter was down slightly this year, beef down one per cent, hogs down three to four per cent and domestic sheep and lambs down sharply. Red meat production plus poultry meat production did not increase during the past year but consumer demand remained very strong — the result was higher prices for meat and meat products. Some relief is projected for 1967 but producers do not have much to fear from price breaks. Indeed, prices for beef are projected to remain strong, with some weakness projected for hogs and poultry meat.

herd continues to decline, a phenomenon that has continued without abatement for over 10 years now. The adjustment in the national beef herd can be viewed as a shorter run cyclical situation. The outlook for beef production continues to look favourable and North America producers will undoubtedly continue to expand as income and population increase. One can expect, of course, the log-run cattle cycle to operate within this context of expansion of beef cattle numbers.



While cattle marketings in Canada were roughly one per cent lower than a year ago, regionally, Western Canada increased its marketings by 2.9 per cent and Eastern Canada reduced its marketings by 3.6 per cent. Ontario accounted for most of that down-turn.

The nature of producer's expectations in the market changed about mid-year. Indeed since May the slaughter of cows and heifers has changed, that is when one compares 1965 with 1966. In the first four months of the year we were slaughtering more cows and heifers than we did the previous year, but since May the trend has reversed, that is we are slaughtering fewer heifers and cows than we did a year previous. Indeed some of this change can be accounted for by the "New Dairy Policy" introduced in May, namely the policy that increased the price of manufacturing milk to farmers by \$1<sup>00</sup>/cwt. There are other things too in the cattle situation that encouraged producers to hold back cows and heifers. One of course was favorable feed and pasture conditions in most areas of Canada, and the other was favorable prices for finished beef and other cattle. In the United States further decline in cattle marketings is anticipated in 1967 due in part to the expected build-up of the national beef herd there in response to anticipated higher prices. We in Canada can expect increased marketings. Finished cattle margin in Canada did not decline as low as those in the United States in 1966. Ontario and Western feeders did not decrease their feed lot placements as much as American feed lot operators in '65. Feed lot operators in both Canada and the United States experienced some unsatisfactory returns in the latter half of 1967. Canadian feed lot operators had, because of shortage of feed supplies in 1965, fewer numbers in their feed lots. Their production was less and their losses, if any, were less significant than those experienced South of the border. Thus the beef supply situation in Canada in 1967 should be improved. Increased marketings are anticipated but unfortunately not much relief can be projected for consumers as beef cattle prices are anticipated to remain strong. Beef cattle prices are of course effected by the prices of other meats, as well as supplies of beef. While we project increased supplies and lower prices for both hogs and pork, the continuing strong consumer demand situation, high consumer incomes and increasing population suggest



## CATTLE AND BEEF

Cattle numbers in Canada this year declined somewhat (-3.5 per cent) from the peak of 1965. Cattle numbers had increased steadily from 1958 to where this nation's cattle herd exceeded 13 million in 1965. The total herd on June 1st, 1966 appeared to have declined to 12½ million head. In the 1958-65 period total cattle in Canada increased over 18 per cent, but this is deceiving because dairy cattle numbers declined 5.6 per cent while beef cattle numbers increased 39 per cent. The national dairy



that we will continue to have high beef prices without much change from conditions in 1966.

## HOG MARKETING SITUATION AND OUTLOOK



Hog marketings this past year, in numbers, were eight per cent less than the previous year. Marketings, particularly in Western Canada, were down significantly — nearly 17 per cent compared with 2½ per cent in the East. In the United States hog marketings were down, too. And in both countries prices were significantly up for this period. In Canada the national average weighted price/cwt. for grade "A" hogs was \$23.64 in 1964 and \$31.77 in 1965 and the average will be close to \$34.00 or \$35.00 in 1966.

Hog producers indicate that they are responding to these high hog prices, and they are increasing pork production with increased farrowings in the fall of 1966. Their intentions are to substantially expand farrowings in the spring of 1967. Thus, one can safely predict lower hog prices to farmers and, of course, lower pork prices to consumers. Significantly lower prices, however, will not occur until the fall and even at that time prices will not be excessively low and unprofitable to farmers because there is considerable evidence to indicate that farmers are tempering their expansion plans due to rising feed grain and other costs. We should point out that while the corn hog and barley hog ratios appear to be favorable, it now takes a 17-to-1 corn hog ratio to make hog production favorable in the United States. It is not so long ago that a 12-to-1 ratio was considered to be the break-even ratio. Thus, hog producers need not fear over-production and low prices in 1967, nor can the consumer expect significantly lower pork prices.

Regionally, in Canada, we expect 11 per cent more hogs in Eastern Canada and 10 per cent more hogs in western Canada. Western Canadian farmers, however, have just harvested the largest wheat and grain crop in history, and experienced observers conclude when Western farmers enjoy large incomes from their cereal grain production, their livestock efforts and production decline, and this is particularly true in the case of hogs.

When Canadian hog prices are on the upswing, we tend to import hogs from the United States and when prices fall we tend to export hogs. However in most years we both import and export hogs. This "North American Market" evens out the supplies and prices of both nations at various seasons of the year. In the main we tend to export more hogs than we import and thus the U.S. market has served to support our producer prices by providing a market for some of our supplies; on the other hand Canadian consumers have been denied cheaper pork, because such additional supplies would have depressed Canadian hog and pork prices.

In summary, then we can say that pork supplies will moderately increase this year, prices will decline somewhat, probably to the level of 1965.

## THE EGG AND POULTRY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The poultry situation in Canada has been favorable to producers and hard on consumers this past year. The egg market prices averaged better than 10¢ per dozen higher than the previous year due to smaller egg supplies. Poultry meat supplies were up by better than 10 per cent, and producer's prices for poultry meats were fortuitously above the levels of a year earlier. Such price strengths can be attributed in part to rising personal income of Canadians, the relative shortage in supply and the resultant high price of beef and pork.

The higher egg prices from January to October this year reflected in the main, smaller egg supplies. Producers will recall that in 1965 egg production was at an all-time high, but prices were low. Indeed, the average for the January to October 1st period a year ago was 27.3 cents per dozen compared to the average of 37.5 cents for the same period this year. The relatively favorable egg



prices of the last 12 months have encouraged the higher trend in pullet chick replacements and we are now experiencing increased egg marketings that are slightly exceeding a year earlier levels. Thus, we may anticipate that egg marketing in 1967 will continue to rise and prices will average under the levels attained in 1966, but the supply situation and outlook for 1967 appears to be such that the prices received for eggs will certainly be higher than the prices attained two years ago. Thus egg consumers will fair better in 1967 than they did in 1966.

One should also point out that feed costs for layer mash are up as much as ½ cent a pound or, in terms of feed costs per dozen eggs, costs are up 2½ cents per



dozen. Thus, profit margins are going to be under a year earlier. Thus, producers face in early 1967 lower egg prices compared with those of 1966 and increased production costs. This should have a salutary effect on producers tempering any tendency to over-expansion in production in late 1967 and we may anticipate more price and supply stability than was experienced in the egg market two years ago.

Turkey production increased in 1966 very substantially (15 per cent) but reduced supplies and consequently high prices for beef and pork produced a situation in which trukey meat faced a ready market at favorable prices during the year. We should observe that the turkey industry is **structurally** changing over to a year-round confinement operation. Indeed in the fall of 1966 turkey prices held close to those of 1965. Profit margins however were reduced by rising feed costs.

Turkey production is projected to increase in 1967. The increase will be **tempered** by rising feed and **labor** costs. Producers can expect prices approaching 1966 levels. Some price weakness will be generated by increased supplies of pork and broiler chickens, but consumer demand is projected to remain strong. Consumers on the other hand have found turkey and poultry meats to be a bargain compared to other meat supplies but they will not find turkey and poultry meat appreciably lower in 1967.

FEED GRAINS

Canadian feed grain supplies, almost 25 million tons, are at record levels. Barley yield at 40 bushels per acre set a record. All domestic and export needs can be met easily and still allow for an increase in stocks at the end of the present crop year. While the number of grain-consuming livestock units increased slightly in 1966, it is estimated that grain supplies per animal unit increased three per cent in the present crop year over the previous one.

Canadian exports of oats and barley are running into increased competition from U.S.-produced corn. However, Canada is able to hold modest export markets for both crops — largely for consumption as food. In the past crop year barley exports were 38 million bushels and shipments of oats abroad were 16 million. No significant change in exports of these crops is forecast.

Prices of both feed grains strengthened slightly during 1966, and some further modest price increases may be expected over the balance of the present year. These prices are influenced by U.S. corn prices, and the outlook

in the United States is for corn-grain prices to be higher in the present crop year than in the past. Livestock-feed price ratios are still favorable and higher feeding rates have resulted.

Canadian corn production, protected by restrictive import permits and by an eight cents per bushel tariff, set another record in acreage and total production in 1966. The denial to the Canadian livestock industry of free access to American corn places a burden on our agriculture which must be many times any benefit from the tariff on corn. Recent studies show that Canadian beef and hog production are increasingly threatened by the comparative advantage enjoyed by American farmers who depend on corn. It is time the Government had a closer look at this with a thought to providing some relief to our very important livestock and poultry industries.

Modifications in freight assistance have raised feed grain prices to Eastern Canadian farmers and reduced the federal subsidies paid under feed grain freight assistance. An Eastern Feed Grain agency is currently proposed to improve the bargaining powers of Eastern Canadian farmers in dealing with the "Canadian Wheat Board". The Wheat Board's monopoly powers continue to dictate feed grain prices to Eastern Canadian users, enforce the purchase of only Wheat Board feed grain supplies from the Western Provinces (non quota grain produced in the West is not available outside of the province it is produced in), and rigidly control the issuance of import permits to all would be importers of cereal grains into any part of Canada. It is time the Government took a close look at the impact of a regional "Canadian Wheat Board" on the agriculture of the other parts of Canada. Indeed, this should accompany discussions and modifications on feed grain assistance. The competitive position of our livestock and poultry industries may be at stake.

WHEAT

Wheat production in Canada reached a record level in 1966. Harvest is estimated at 840 million bushels, by far the largest crop in our history. Increased acreage and yields were responsible for this record. Wheat producers have planted 30.3 million acres, more than 98 per cent of it in the three Prairie Provinces. When compared to the acreages of 1965 and to the average of the period 1959-63 this represents an increase of 7 and 18 per cent respectively. Yield is estimated at a record 27.7 bushels per acre. Wheat prices were strong, rising to a high of 212.4 per bushel for No. 1 Northern, Fort William, close to the maximum set under the International Wheat

Table 1: Supply and Disposition of Wheat

Crop Year	Beginning Inventory at Aug. 1	Production	Total supply	Domestic use <sup>1</sup>	Exports <sup>2</sup>	Ending Inventory July 31
		(millions of bushels)				
Ave. 1954/55-1958/59	623.4	443.0	1,066.5	160.5	288.7	617.3
Ave. 1959/60-1963/64	534.7	507.2	1,041.9	150.0	382.9	509.0
1964-65	459.4	600.4	1,059.9	147.3	399.6	513.0
1966-67	513.0	648.9	1,161.9	157.2	582.8	421.9
1965-66	421.9	840.4 <sup>3</sup>	1,262.4 <sup>3</sup>	170.0 <sup>3</sup>	530.0 <sup>3</sup>	562.4 <sup>3</sup>

1. Food, seed and feed  
2. Includes wheat flour in terms of wheat  
3. Estimate



Agreement. Farmers clearly reacted to the large Russian and Chinese wheat sales and contracts.

In view of the record crop, it was fortunate that the year-end carry over on 1st August was with one exception the lowest in 13 years. Table 1 presents the developments in supply and disposition of wheat over the past decade.

The largest wheat purchases in the past crop year were by the U.S.S.R. and Mainland China, accounting for half of our total wheat exports. Due to dwindling surpluses in the United States, the demand for Canadian wheat was strengthened on the world market, although the effect of the protectionist policies of the Common Market countries caused some decrease in our wheat exports to the countries in the European Economic Community. Since other European countries purchased greater quantities than in 1964-65, the total export volume to Europe was somewhat higher than in the previous crop year.

The prospect of next year's wheat sales must be approached cautiously. The lower stocks in the United States, the small supplies in Australia and Argentina are favourable factors. Also France and Sweden have reported declines in production. The United States Government is considering fundamental changes in its Food for Peace programme. This will restrict give-away wheat to a number of former recipients. On the other hand the U.S. policy is for a large increase in wheat acreage. After granting a 32 per cent increase in acreage quotas, the President recently announced that it was the intention of the Government to encourage farmers to return one-half of the 60 million acre Soil Bank to crop production. A fair proportion would go to wheat.

The current economic policy of Britain does not encourage imports. Also, the trend to self-sufficiency has been accentuated in most West European countries, with the exception of Italy. However, despite expansionist policies, total wheat production in Europe was 1.5 billion bushels vs. 1.7 billion in the previous crop year.

World trade in wheat and products might decline in 1966/67 both so far as commercial sales and give-aways are concerned. This trend would be aided as a result of smaller demand from Eastern European countries.

Summarizing, it is not likely that noticeable changes will occur in the Western European market which indicates potential sales of 150 million bushels of Canadian wheat. Mainland China had a poor harvest; therefore it might purchase more than foreseen in the present contract. Purchase of 80 million seems to be a realistic estimate. Production in other Asian countries remained below that of the previous years. Particularly in Japan, which had the smallest crop in 20 years, i.e. 15 per cent less than in 1965. Some South American and Caribbean countries may turn to Canada as the United States policy restricts PL 480 shipments. On this basis Canada's wheat exports are estimated at 530 million bushels in 1966/67; this would give a carry-over of some 560 million bushels on August 1, 1967.

The foregoing estimate is based solely on an evaluation of the supply and demand factors. Yet, the Canadian transport potential is an important factor in our competition for grain exports. In spite of existing demand, for example, overseas wheat shipments during the period from August 1 to November 17, 1965 were 187 million bushels and decline to 178 million during the same time period in 1966. It is difficult to say how far internal transport difficulties and labour disputes are responsible for that. But the railways have the necessary rolling stock. It is extremely important to the Canadian economy that labour difficulties do not interfere with the movement of wheat.

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Each year, we receive many requests for additional copies of this annual special Review and Outlook Issue. These copies are distributed by government departments, by industry, and by farm organizations to their memberships.

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Compiled by T. Pickup of the Information and Research Service,  
Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS BY**  
**OMER BEAUDOIN**

## SUGAR BEETS STUDY

Mr. Clément Vincent, Minister of Agriculture and Colonization and President of the Quebec Beet Sugar Refinery Corporation, announced on November 15th that the firm of chartered accountants, Bélanger, Saint-Jacques, Sirois, Comtois and Company has been engaged to make a study of the refinery at Saint-Hilaire. The study will be financed out of ARDA funds with a view to rationalizing the growing and processing of sugar beets in Quebec. This step was decided on following a motion to that effect proposed by Mr. Denis Bousquet, M.L.A. for St-Hyacinthe, and seconded by Mr. Yvon Hamel, M.L.A. for Rouville, which was adopted at a meeting of members of the Refinery corporation at Saint-Hilaire on August 22nd 1966. Mr. Vincent said that the firm of chartered accounts, in conjunction with officials of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization, would carry out an analytical study of sugar-beet growing in the province, their processing in the factory at Saint-Hilaire, and the marketing of the products and byproducts, and would also prepare a plan designed to ensure an adequate return to the grower and a maximum yield at the refinery. The firm would also study the diverse functions of the factory and its permanent personnel. The firm of Bélanger, Saint-Jacques, Sirois, Comtois and Company is affiliated with the firm of Bélanger Chabot, Nobert, Angers and Associates Ltd., and has an experienced and well-qualified staff whose members have participated, as a group or individually, in a number of economic studies for the provincial and federal governments and municipalities and in various projects of refinancing and administrative reorganization in the field of industry and commerce throughout Quebec. □

The county agricultural representative helps to examine sugar beets in a six-acre field belonging to Mr. Adrien Allard at St-Alexis, Montcalm.





# POTATO QUALITY

*\* By H. T. Davies*

**There are three types of potato quality, says the author. This story deals with the third — the internal characteristics that affect table stock when cooked.**



Jean-Marc Langis and his father Hormidas discuss the respective merits of Kennebec and Green Mountain potatoes at Sacré-Coeur, Rimouski.

What is potato quality? There are three correct answers. As far as seed potatoes are concerned, quality is taken to mean freedom from disease. Next, quality of table stock can refer to the outside appearance of the potato, influenced by such factors as amount of bruising, cuts, and fungus disease present, as well as size and shape of tubers. But we are concerned here only with the third type of quality — the internal characteristics that affect table stock when cooked.

The consumer, then sets the standards of quality, and ultimately there can be no objective method of judgment. Tastes vary by country and by individual, and quality requirements vary with the purpose for which the potatoes are to be used. Thus, early potatoes and late potatoes are judged by different standards. The criterion of quality for chipping differs from that for boiling; a variety suitable for salads would make poor bakers. Color, consistency, mealiness, structure, "sloughing", or the disintegration of the potato when boiled, flavor, and storage life all take on different degrees of importance, depending upon the product in question.

At the CDA Research Station in Fredericton, we have been tackling the problem of potato quality from several angles. First, the breeders select varieties or seedlings which bear tubers suitable for chipping or French frying or use on the table, and then cross these with varieties known for their disease resistance, high yield or early maturity, for example. The progenies

of these crosses are then tested repeatedly to see that they are in fact superior to their parents.

It is well known that environment can influence quality, and consequently, in addition to the breeding program, much research on the influence of cultural practices—fertilizing, seed treatment, spraying for insects and disease spacing, topkilling—is carried out and the results are passed along to the potato industry.

The association of specific gravity or dry matter content and cooking quality is well known. High specific gravity, associated with a high dry matter content, is normally considered to be indicative of good quality. Why, then, must we run cooking trials? After-cooking discoloration, a darkening process, is a serious problem for both processor and housewife, and it cannot be revealed by specific gravity tests alone. Then there is the problem of off-flavor. This becomes apparent only after cooking. Finally, although often linked with high specific gravity, the degree of "sloughing" can be evaluated accurately only by a cooking test.

In our investigations, we have found that an ideal potato after boiling will be white or creamy white in color, of mealy texture, relatively free of disintegration, and have a mild taste free of off-flavors. For baking, the same attributes apply, but the potato should have a higher dry matter content. After all, it can't disintegrate. The skin will hold it together.

When cooked, the samples are placed on white plates under a uniform artificial light and scored. The total score of 100 points is based on texture, color, flavor, and degree of disintegra-

tion of the boiled samples. The penalty for discoloration is entered on the score sheet about 15 minutes after the sample is first placed on the plate. A panel of at least three experienced persons score the samples and calculate the averages.

Potato chips and French fries have shot into popularity in recent years. Both industries have grown by leaps and bounds. And the pressures on research facilities at the Research Station in Fredericton reflect the new taste in potatoes. As early as 1957 testing was undertaken specifically for the potato chip industry and testing for quality in French fries was started two years later.

The potato chip industry requires varieties with high specific gravity, which will produce a product that is light golden brown in color under a wide range of conditions, often following prolonged storage, during which time alterations of sugars have taken place. Our investigations involve tests being carried out in late summer on early harvested tubers, periodically throughout the winter from controlled storage chambers at three separate temperatures, and finally in early summer on old potatoes which have been treated with sprout inhibitors.

The French-fry industry also requires varieties with high specific gravity, and the ability to process into golden brown fries of even color and texture after

*(continued on page 21)*

**This page supplied in the interests of the Family Farm by the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.**

\* The author is a potato quality specialist with the Potato Breeding Section, CDA Research Station, Fredericton, N.B.



# Newcastle Disease of Poultry



In a modern poultry plant such as this, strict precautions must be taken against disease.

Avian pneumo-encephalitis is a contagious and infectious virus disease of poultry. It can affect chickens and turkeys at any age, producing respiratory and nervous symptoms. The disease was first reported in 1926 from Newcastle in England (hence the popular name), in the United States in 1944, and in Quebec in 1952.

It can be transmitted in many ways. The virus may be carried through the air so that, if the disease is present on one poultry-farm, neighbouring flocks are in danger of infection.

Direct contact between infected and healthy poultry — for instance, following the purchase of birds that are carriers of the virus — is an important factor in the spread of the disease; but it is also transmitted by indirect contacts, for example by visitors, by other birds, rodents, crates, feed sacks, ve-

hicles, and any other infected material.

The virus in birds that have died of the disease or which is present in contaminated litter (if these are not destroyed) can transmit the infection even after six months. Briefly, Newcastle disease is easily spread owing to the very resistant nature of the virus.

The clinical symptoms appear soon after birds have come in contact with the virus.

The incubation period of the disease is from two to fifteen days. This means that clinical symptoms can usually be expected to appear in a flock seven days after the birds have been exposed to the virus. The disease can occur in poultry of all ages, but the symptoms vary according to the virulence of the virus, the age of the infected birds, their resistance (natural, or acquired through vaccination), and

the presence of other diseases such as coryza (roup), bronchitis, and C.R.D. (chronic respiratory disease).

During a severe epidemic, all the birds on a poultry-farm may die within a week without showing any clinical symptoms.

## SYMPTOMS IN YOUNG BIRDS

Typical signs are respiratory and nervous symptoms. At the start, the poultryman may notice green diarrhea, loss of appetite, and intense thirst; the birds are feverish and inclined to crowd and huddle together. These symptoms are followed by coughing and rattling noises during breathing, soon accompanied by nervous disorders marked by paralysis, lateral displacement of the head, tumbling, and running in circles.

The respiratory symptoms may last for three weeks but birds suffering

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nervous damage never return to normal and are better destroyed.

## SYMPTOMS IN MATURE BIRDS

In addition to the symptoms already mentioned, a drop in the egg-production of laying birds will be noticed. The decline may amount to 20 to 60% and be followed by a return to normal laying after 45 days. During this period, eggs of inferior quality are produced — thin-shelled or shell-less and deformed, and with albumen of inferior quality.

## SYMPTOMS IN TURKEYS

In the case of turkeys, the symptoms are less distinct; they take the form of partial or complete paralysis of one or two limbs.

In acute cases, after examining the birds on the spot, an experienced operator can make a preliminary diagnosis which can later be confirmed by laboratory investigation.

However, the persistent nature of the infection and widespread use of vaccines have led to difficulties in diagnosis. There is an increasing need for cooperation between veterinary diagnosticians and personnel of government laboratories to ensure diagnosis of the disease.

Since no treatment for Newcastle disease has been found and no drug or antibiotic is known that will relieve it, preventive measures must be taken.

### A) PREVENTION BY VACCINATION

In areas where the disease is present, general vaccination of all flocks is recommended. These preventive measures should be applied without a break as long as the disease exists in the area and they should be continued for at least a year after the appearance of the last case of infection. Several kinds of vaccines which have been approved by the veterinary authorities are available to poultrymen and may thus be used to control this disease.

But it must be remembered that vaccination is not 100% effective and must therefore always be used in conjunction with other measures of general hygiene and good management. Furthermore, the various vaccines must be

used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's directions for storage and application.

Recent laboratory research has shown that vaccination of chicks less than three weeks old does not cause them to develop effective immunity. It is thus better to wait until they have reached that age before vaccinating them.

Moreover, this measure also calls for chicks having a sound basic immunity such as may be produced by repeated vaccinations of the breeding stock.

Recommended vaccination schedule for poultry:

- 1st vaccination at 3 weeks;
- 2nd vaccination at 4 months;
- Vaccination every 4 months thereafter.

### B) SANITARY AND HYGIENE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Buy chicks derived from vaccinated flocks.

Avoid keeping birds of different ages in the same building.

Cover openings (doors, windows, etc.) with wire-netting to prevent wild birds from entering.

Destroy insects (flies) and vermin (rats and mice).

Pile used litter and droppings at least 1000 feet from the poultry-house.

Provide clean, disinfected quarters, and fresh litter for each lot of birds raised.

Put a basin of disinfectant (for disinfecting overshoes) at the entrance of each poultry building.

Keep doors locked to prevent visitors from entering.

See that persons who have to enter poultry buildings wear clean overalls. Prevent domestic animals (dogs and cats) from entering poultry-houses.

Discourage visits by other poultrymen. Accept delivery of feed only in new bags or in bulk.

Keep a record of deaths in the flocks and report anything unusual to a veterinarian or a laboratory for diagnosis.

Do not administer any medication (antibiotics or "sulfa" drugs) except in cases where they are specifically recommended to treat a well-defined disease.

Health of Animals Division  
Department of Agriculture and Colonization. □

# PROTECTING POULTRY FROM DISEASE

Laryngo-tracheitis has been diagnosed in several poultry flocks in the province during recent months. In order to protect their birds against the disease, some poultrymen have had their flocks vaccinated.

Dr. Albert Lavallée, D.V.M., head of the Health of Animals division is in favour of such precautions but, as the immunized birds still carry the virus, he considers it advisable to publish the following instructions for the benefit of breeders of started pullets and owners of cooperative and private hatcheries:

1. Pullets which have been vaccinated against laryngotracheitis should not be allowed to come in contact with birds that have not been immunized against this disease.
2. Before selling birds, poultry breeders should find out beforehand whether the birds already on the buyer's premises have been vaccinated against laryngotracheitis;
3. Persons responsible for the care of birds which have been vaccinated against laryngo-tracheitis should avoid visiting other poultrymen whose birds have not been so protected;
4. In order to prevent the disease from spreading, it is advisable to disinfect the birds' cages, crates and utensils, and destroy feed sacks that have been in poultry-houses containing vaccinated birds.

The carrying-out of these instructions will help to control laryngotracheitis in the province. The staff of the Health of Animals division relies on the cooperation of all concerned.

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## CROP INSURANCE

Since the second world war, subsistence farming has generally given way to a more commercialized and more profitable type of agriculture. This has been brought about by a change in growing methods, widespread use of commercial fertilizers, and the more or less inevitable partial or complete replacement of hired farm help by mechanization. But although these changes have helped to increase yields, they have also led to a marked rise in production costs that a farmer can no longer meet without being able to count on a sure return from his labour and investment.

While the farmer has succeeded in making better use of the soil's hidden resources by his efforts, he is still not able to charm away pests and diseases or escape the effects of hail, drought, excessive rainfall and other climatic disasters: only crop insurance can guarantee him the fruits of his labour.

### **Crop insurance compensates for crop failures**

Crop insurance acts like a shock absorber in deadening much of the impact of the partial or total destruction of certain crops by providing the farmers with financial protection against natural risks or weather hazards which they cannot prevent or control. When a province introduces a crop-insurance plan, it gives farmers the means to organize their own defence against unexpected disasters, and a guaranteed claim to reasonable compensation for crop losses they may suffer.

### **Crop insurance stabilizes farm income**

There is a saying that "as goes agriculture, so goes the economy in general". At any rate, my helping to guarantee a steady level of income for the farmers, crop insurance indirectly promotes a climate of stability in the economy as a whole. This kind of insurance has the effect of distributing the impact of agricultural disasters in time and space, because all the insured persons help to share the burden of heavy losses suffered by the farmers of a hard-hit locality, and funds accumulated in good years are used to pay compensation in bad years.

### **Crop insurance protects investments and makes it easier to obtain credit**

Crop insurance strengthens the farmer's position when he is seeking credit for agricultural purposes, and, by guaranteeing protection against crop losses, it acts as a brake on increasing indebtedness.

Seasonal crops represent a major investment for most farmers: they must have money to pay wages, buy seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides and allow for heavy depreciation costs on machinery. Many farmers have to borrow to meet these expenses and, if the crop is lost, they are no longer in a position to repay the loans, are refused further credit, and find themselves facing a blank wall when it comes to growing the next crop.

A crop insurance policy makes good backing for a loan application because it can be used as an additional guarantee of repayment and, in the event of crop failure, the compensation received can be used to repay the bank, "caisse populaire", or other lender. In this way, crop insurance not only improves the financial position of the farmer but also strengthens the farm loan position of the lending institutions.

## DETERGENTS FROM BEEF AND SUGAR

The state of Nebraska, casting around for a way of tempting industry into its largely agricultural economy, has come up with a solution almost poetic in its empiricism. A prolific producer of both cattle and sugar beet, what could be more natural for the state than an industry founded on these two raw materials? And the industry Nebraska chose is synthetic detergent.

Two industrial consultants from New York have devised a manufacturing process based on tallow from the cattle and sucrose from the sugar beet *Chemical Week*, Vol. 99, No. 11). And they are convinced not only that their product will be economically competitive with the more usual detergents based on derivatives of petroleum, but that it will have several important advantages.

One of these is an improvement on previous proposals for processes involving sugar as a base for synthetic detergents. These involved dissolving both sugar and the waxy component in a mutual solvent, but the solvent could not be completely removed at the end of the process and, besides, it was poisonous. Obviously, such products could not be used in the food industry. The Nebraska method involves making a very fine emulsion of extracts from the beef tallow and mixing it with sugar dissolved in a harmless solvent. The necessary reaction between the sugar and this "tallowate" takes place perfectly readily, and the product is harmless.

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But possibly the most important advantage of the new method is that the detergents made in this way are readily broken down by bacteria found in sewers and rivers. The detergent industry has been heavily attacked on this point, and has now largely turned away from the type of product which was making rivers into streams of foam to alternative formulae which could be broken down by bacteria. However, reports have started appearing that even these new detergents are not completely broken down in the oxygen-starved conditions common in many household cesspools. The Nebraskan sugar and beef-tallow detergents, on the other hand, will be snapped up by the bacteria in all conditions.

As additional bait to industrialists still hesitating on the Nebraskan borders, the state has offered free royalties on this process to any company who will build within them. If companies are tempted, Nebraska's famous sugar and cattle products may be finding their way into food additives (as emulsifiers), cosmetics, printing inks and a range of household and industrial detergents. □

## CHEESEMAKERS WIN IN LONDON

Speaking to a meeting of the Quebec Milk Producers' Association at Arthabaska, Mr. Clément Vincent, Minister of Agriculture and Colonization, praised the cheese producers of the province who won top honours at the Royal Dairy Show in London recently.

Out of six prizes awarded in this contest in which most of the Commonwealth countries took part, five were won by Quebec cheesemakers. This is the first time that Quebec cheese has come out on top in Great Britain, and it is only the third time that Quebec has taken part in the contest.

Mr. Vincent stressed the beneficial effect that the results of the competition could have on the export of Quebec cheese: "Here is proof" he said "that our cheese now have the quality to compete favourably with those of all the other countries."

Credit for carrying off nearly all the honours in the contest goes to the co-operatives of Lake St. John. The Sacré-Coeur de Marie cooperative won the first prize; the Saint-Félicien cooperative took the second and third; the Saint-Jérôme cooperative placed fourth; Pine River Cheese and Butter Cooperative of Ripley in Ontario was fifth; and the Coopérative Agricole Albel came sixth.

Incidentally, the Sacré-Coeur de Marie Cooperative which came first in London took the first prize in the recent provincial competition. □





# THE BETTER IMPULSE

News and Views of the Women's Institute of Quebec

## "A LADY OF OUR DELIGHT"



MRS. C. E. PETCH

In the October 1966 issue of the Macdonald Farm Journal, a most interesting article appeared under the title "Quebec's Agricultural Merit Contest" by Walker Riley. Although the description of the history and rules of this contest was most comprehensive, it was made apparent at a recent meeting of the Hemmingford Branch of the Women's Institute that an important fact had been omitted, in that no mention was made of the two Quebec W.I. members who were awarded the honorary title of Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit. Premier Godbout in 1940 felt that certain outstanding women in the province should be honoured and, among others, Mrs. Cameron Dow of Port Daniel WI and Mrs. C.E. Petch of Hemmingford WI were made Commanders of this Order. Both former Provincial Presidents worked steadily for many years forwarding the WI Purpose: "to raise the standards of rural living". These two ladies, now in their senior years, are well-known and respected in their own communities, and are still sharing WI work. Quebec Women's Institute is proud of these distinguished members: Hemmingford Women's Institute salutes its member of this duo with affection and admiration.

We of Hemmingford know our Mrs. Petch as a friendly, interested and interesting person, hospitable and kind, prominent in St. Luke's Anglican Church, proud of her children and grandchildren, reserved about personal and health problems, and tactfully quiet at our branch meetings. But do we know, except in a vague way, of the important positions held by her in connection with WI work, and the eminent people, including the late Lady Tweedsmuir, who acknowledged her ability? It is in the spirit of "being too near the forest to see the trees" that this article is written.

Mrs. Petch, nee Mary Evelyn Marshall, was born at Sawyerville and raised on the family farm. As the oldest child and only sister to four

brothers, she received basic training in household economics. Education in rural districts was difficult, but even after a late start at eight years of age, she rapidly completed Grade II. After teaching school for a short time, then taking a business course, Mrs. Petch worked in Montreal. There she met the late C.E. Petch, married and moved to Hemmingford where her husband was employed as the Federal Government Entomologist.

According to our WI history, for which Mrs. Petch supplied much of the material, some forty years ago Hemmingford was a small rural village on the main Montreal-to-New York highway. There were few cars with most families riding by horse and buggy or sleigh. The train ran twice daily from Montreal to Mooers, N.Y. Radios were putting in their appearance, with a few families the proud owners of the latest model earphone sets. Most children attended one-room schools. There was no medical inspection in schools, no Health Clinic; there were no shots for diphtheria or whooping cough. Electricity had come to the village proper but did not extend beyond the town limits. Farms were

mostly dairy, with small home orchards: large plantings of apple trees were just beginning.

The horizons of the Petch household were broad, partly no doubt, due to the Dominion Entomological Laboratory where many distinguished people came from Macdonald College, Ottawa and other parts of Canada. Often these same people were unexpected dinner guests and were a challenge to a busy wife and mother of four small children, at a time when most of our "household helpers" were not yet invented. Nevertheless in 1923 when our present Institute was formed, it was Mrs. Petch who became the first President, and guided the branch through its first nine years in this post. Her younger son, as an infant and for several years after, attended meetings regularly in order that Mrs. Petch could continue in office. "Household Hints" became a family joke, as after each meeting Mrs. Petch would put into operation some new method she had just learned to shorten domestic chores. In addition to her local work, Mrs. Petch became Provincial Convener of Child Welfare and Public Health from 1926 to 1931; and Provincial Vice-President from 1933 to 1935. The establishment of the Chateaugay-Huntingdon County Health Unit took place in 1934, after seven years of untiring effort. Nothing is ever accomplished by one person alone, but it is significant that the project was begun during her first year as convener of Health and Welfare.

Mrs. Petch was Provincial WI President from 1935 to 1939, and during these years special emphasis was given to Health and Welfare, and many clinics were organized. County Health Units were just beginning and branches did all they could to establish them in their counties, a project with which the President was intimately involved. In 1939 Mrs. Petch attended the ACWW Triennial Conference in London, England, the first QWI President to have this honour. For the FWIC, she served as representative for QWI,



as Convener of Child Welfare, as well as second vice-president.

How did she do it? It was not at the expense of her children, all of whom completed college or university and married happily: nor of her household where she entertained her husband's colleagues: nor of her church, where she was from time to time president of the Women's Auxiliary and church organist: nor of the local WI where her attendance record is practically unbroken.

Mrs. Petch explains that no part is greater than the whole, that Institute work developed any native talent she possessed. When she was honoured with the title "Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit" Mrs. Petch felt it to be an Institute rather than a personal award. The framed Diploma hangs in the hall of her home, and the Medallion and Ribbon of the Order are prized possessions.

We of lesser stature feel humble in the face of her record, proud that Mrs. Petch is a member of our community, and hope for many more years of close association with this very remarkable woman.

Mrs. D.B. Woolley, Hemmingford WI.  
Title from a poem by Alice Meynell.

## RE. CENTENNIAL POEMS

Please Note: If you are submitting a poem state which contest you are entering. The QWI Centennial poem is a short Canadian poem of not more than four stanzas. by a WI member. Prizes \$15, \$10 and \$5.

The Tweedsmuir Centennial poem must be on a phase of Canada's one hundred years, not less than 8 and not more than 48 lines.



A stove made in 1881 by Horatius Horskin of Bedford, Quebec and known as a Diamond Rock stove, given to Brome County Historical Society, Knowlton, by owners Mr. and Mrs. Eric E. Sherrer, Sutton. Mrs. Sherrer is president of Abercorn WI.

## FORDYCE 20th ANNIVERSARY



Thirty members of Fordyce celebrated their 20th anniversary with a turkey supper on November 27th at the Maurice Hotel, Cowansville. The Executive and convenors of 1946 were presented with blue and gold corsages by Miss Norma Cummings. At the head table were the Executive of 1946, the 1966 president, Mrs. Williams and the County President, Mrs. E. Dryden. Decorations were in blue and gold, and the cake, in the form of a book, contained the names of the first executive in blue and gold.

A very interesting program followed the supper. After the welcome by Mrs. Dryden, a resumé of activities of the 20 years was given by Mrs. Moore. There were readings, a sing song and songs by 'The Five Dwarfs'. The highlight of the evening was a monologue by the president (dressed as a man), 'Hiram on the Pullman', and a duet by Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Syberg. Miss Isobel Beattie was the accompanist and was presented with a gift.

Mrs. Lewis thanked the president on behalf of the members and Mrs. W. Sanborn, on behalf of the charter-member guests.

"God be with You till We Meet Again", by the 'Five Dwarfs' — Mesdames Williams, Syberg, Bromby, Dougall and Miss Cummings — and The Queen brought a perfect evening to a close.

## 3rd EDITION OF PBS EDUCATION BOOK

DBS announces publication of 3rd edition of "Organization and Administration of Public Schools in Canada".

Written by Dr. W. H. Luow of the Bureau's Education Div., the 215-page volume reports on the structure of education administration in Canada, including new school legislation, the changed structure of provincial departments of education, the expansion of facilities and programs, and the introduction of new programs — particularly in the post-secondary vocational sector.

Provinces are with separately and the book covers: historic highlights; colleges and universities; the provincial Department of Education; municipal organization and school boards; teachers; school operation; school finance;

and technical and vocational education

The Federal Government's role in education is also explored. A list of federal departments and agencies, their education functions and addresses are all included in the chapter. Other areas treated are: Indian education; education in the Yukon Territory; education in the Northwest Territories; federal-provincial co-operation in vocational and technical education; national defence and education; education in penitentiaries; the work of the federal Department of External Affairs; the External Aid Office; and the Massey Commission, Canada Council and Commission for UNESCO.

Price of the volume is \$2.00 and copies can be ordered from the Publications Distribution Unit, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa 3, Canada. Catalog number is 81-535.





# The Month With The W. I.

## SHEFFORD COUNTY'S CENTENNIAL PROJECT: ROAD SIGNS FOR QWI PUBLICITY

*At their Annual Convention the three branches of Shefford County discussed the possibility of erecting road signs at the entrance to their towns to indicate the existence of a WI Branch. It was felt that this would be a good Centennial project; it would indicate to tourists and to Expo visitors that an Institute was functioning and extending a welcome; and it would be good publicity. Members agreed to go ahead with the project, and appointed their publicity conveners as a committee- Mrs. Gordon Neil, Granby Hill, Mrs. A. Pow, Granby West, Mrs. Howard Smith, Waterloo-Warden, with Mrs. J. Fontaine, County Publicity Convener as chairman.*

*The signs are an exact replica of the QWI crest, done in blue and gold, with the lettering "QWI—Here" below the crest. The signs are 30" wide and 23" high, and will be attached to 2" pipe for insertion in the ground. The cost per sign will be about \$35, with the County buying 2, and two branches 2 more, a cooperative effort of all members. The signs will be erected at the town limits of Granby, and of Waterloo, with the permission of the Roads Department, in early spring.*

*Mrs. Fontaine writes: "We think this will be good publicity for QWI. We expect and hope that members from other countries, provinces or counties will visit us, and we want them to know that we have a WI in our towns."*

*Welcome back to Journal Pages to Pontiac Branches. The reports sent in the last few months from the County Convener of Publicity to the Provincial Convener are lost somewhere in the limbo of the Post Office Department. Activities of several months in the branches are included in this Month with the WI to bring them up to date.*

**ARGENTEUIL:** Many branches reported hearing detailed reports of Semi-Annual Convention, when Mrs. Douglas Hayes of L'Original, guest speaker, chose as her topic "Foundation of To-Morrow". Armistice Day was observed and Poppies were sold. **Arundel** entertained **Upper Lachute East End**, with each member telling what she was doing to interest others in WI. Mr. Dennis Staniforth showed beautiful coloured slides of a recent trip to England, Scotland and Ireland. **Brownsburg** gave sewing hints; Centennial Project plans were finalized, the project to present trophy cases to Brownsburg High School; discussed plans for entertaining Golden Agers at Christmas Party; member demonstrated candle making. **Dalesville-Louisa** in roll call, named a home accident and how to prevent it: Mrs. C. Hall, County President, was guest, speaking of WI projects, and discussed entertaining of Ontario WI groups during Expo: Mrs. E. Gordon, Convener of Health and Welfare, distributed pamphlets and spoke of the nursing care instruction which is available from resident visiting nurse. **Frontier** members told what they had done to further their education since leaving school; catered a tea at Carillon Museum; new handicraft list for Spring Fair accepted: Messrs. Royal and Turner, spoke on the new Regional School which is expected to open in 1968. **Jerusalem-Bethany** held Education meeting with Roll Call answering the question Why is Education Important To-Day?; heard history of WI from the life of its founder Adelaide Hoodless through the years to to-day; collected Pennies for Friendship. **Lachute** had as their guest Mrs. Marcel Gendron,

who spoke on the Meaning of Citizenship; a bridge luncheon was planned. **Lakefield** planned to make quilt of the Maple Leaf pattern, to be shown at the Spring Fair; in roll call told what they appreciate most in their husbands. **Morin Heights** entertained principal, teachers, interested parents, with Mr. Kerwin, Principal of local school as guest speaker; plan to make and sell a quilt to raise funds. **Pioneer** held citizenship meeting, with Rev. Harold Reid, D.D., speaking on this topic; gave a penny for every year of membership in the WI; held successful Tupperware Party. **Upper Lachute East End** heard reading of In Flanders Fields; collected Pennies for Friendship; bought Poppies; played "grab-the-parcel".

**BROME:** **Abercorn** wore poppies, and observed one-minute silence in honour of fallen heroes of past wars: Mrs. Page reported on Semi-Annual convention: successful Tupperware party held in WI Hall; Rummage Sale held jointly with the Abercorn Guild of All Saints Church, with good financial return. **Austin:** Mr. Glen Brown, M.L.A., was guest, speaking on the Quebec Pension Plan; purchased \$300 Canada Bonds, the start of a Grade X Bursary, with a goal of an annual bursary of \$100; named a cabinet minister and his portfolio; planned a pre-Christmas party. **Knowlton's Landing** worked on finances and decided to compile a branch cook book, and to hold a card party. **South Bolton** wore poppies or read an appropriate poem; discussion on citizenship held; held card party. **Sutton** bought and wore poppies, with proceeds to Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion; named and described a city or town in Quebec as roll call; two quilts were tied and completed, given to family whose home was razed by fire.

**CHATEAUGUAY-HUNTINGDON:** **Aubrey-Riverfield** heard Mrs. Johansson talk on trip she and her husband took down the Eastern Seaboard of the United States to Florida, then west to San Francisco by one route, returning by another. **Dewittville** Mrs. G. Woods gave travelogue with slides of trip to Mexico: special guest Mrs. North, a WI member in Buckinghamshire, Eng., who wished to attend a rural meeting in Canada; members toured Expo site recently. **Dundee** packed bale of used clothing for Unitarian Service. **Frankline Centre** entertained members from other branches in county: Mr. J. Barr showed coloured slides of his world tour, particularly Hawaii, the Far East and India. **Hemmingford** saw films on the importance of Blood Donor Clinics, and Hints on Ice Safety. **Howick** gave prizes in wood-working and in home economics in Grades 8-11; gave a scholarship to Grade x student: joined with Ormstown WI when the Assistant Principal, Mrs. M. Campbell, spoke on Citizenship, Its Duties and Obligations. **Huntingdon:** Armistice Program given; talk on visit to Flanders Fields given by Mrs. Hovorka; demonstration of gift bow making; held rummage sale. **Ormstown** entertained staff of Ormstown High School and the Catholic School, and members of neighbouring WI branches: guest speaker was Miss Doris Clark, Women's Commentator, Radio CJAD, telling how the station was organized, how it is run, anecdotes about staff members, careers for women in radio writing and other areas: the question and answer period that followed was lively and most interesting. **COMPTON:** **Brookbury** has given many donations to worthy causes including a wreath for Armistice Day, school lunch



fund, local cemeteries, and to Maplemont Home: will pack Christmas cheer boxes **Bury** held very successful old-fashioned box social; are holding a series of card parties; entertained the staff of Pope Memorial School, hearing a talk on Early Education in Bury. **Canterbury** is making two quilts to be given to needy family: Christmas boxes for shut-ins. **Cookshire**: Miss Colleen Coates spoke on her trip to the Pilgrimage of Youth to the U.N.: \$50 bursary given jointly by Cookshire and **East Angus** to Miss Judy Pickett, now attending Bishop's University; donated school prizes. **East Clifton**: Mrs. Gordon French gave reading "Cemeteries of Canadians in Other Lands" and a reading by Mrs. J. Parkinson, "Small Things Make Big Friendships": roll call — how we can help to keep peace; collected for Hallowe'en UNICEF; gave party for children with the Sunday School; made a wreath which was placed at the Cenotaph. **Sawyerville**: Lionel Hurd, Pres. of Compton County Historical and Museum Society gave talk on "Pioneers of Compton County": flowers sent in Memoriam to the late Miss Ida Mackay, Life Member and silence observed to honour a valued member, who would have been 99 years old on Dec. 4. **Scotstown**: purchased Armistice wreath: donated to Home and School Club, and to Maplemont Home: quiz on flowers held, and a contest naming prominent Canadians from their pictures: souvenir Centennial spoons sold.

**GASPE**: **Gaspe** as roll call named a Canadian author and a book he has written: each member to bring a gift to be given to the San: papers on Growing Flowers, Acaciaville WI, The Grande Hermine, Food at its Best, and Household Hints. **Haldimand** gave suggestions on how to make meetings and programs more interesting: children's gardens were judged by the County Agronomer and prizes given: many children took part in the Fall Fair, and the WI Cup was won by Debbie Girard. **Murdochville**: report on Semi-Annual: Flowering Crab planted in park as Centennial project: WI Bursary awarded to Glenn Miller, now a student at Mount Allison University: prizes given at local school: contest-members brought photos of themselves as children, to be identified by members. **Wakeham** named a war veteran: collected for UNICEF Halloween: held most rewarding handicraft sale, which included sale of 2 mystery parcels. **York** sponsored Children's Masquerade party, giving prizes for best costumes and treats to all the children: later the same evening held a card party: read The Grande Hermine; gave out programs for 1967 Fair; welcomed two new members; held sale of cup towels and aprons: contest on Politics and one on Expo: plans completed for York Centennial Dinner which WI helped to sponsor.

**JACQUES CARTIER**: Ste. Anne's welcomed two new members and some visitors: quiz held on WI, with many interesting answers and good discussion: President Mrs. G. Sanders laid WI wreath on the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday; annual donation made to Ste. Anne's Military Hospital: waistline measurements paid in Pennies for Friendship: at roll call members told where they were born and the year they joined the WI: birthday cake served to celebrate 19th birthday of this branch.

**MEGANTIC**: Both branches answered roll call by wearing a poppy. **Inverness** collected \$43 for UNICEF: sent plants to 2 hospitalized members: put an extra light in 100F Hall. **Kinnear's Mills** observed silence for departed ones of the World Wars: discussed a play: each member brought a gift to be sent to retarded child at Dixville Home; cards sent to sick friends.

**MISSISQUOI**: **Cowansville** heard a talk on public opinions of the WI, and another on The Men Who Made Canada; reviewed a meeting held 10 years ago; contest on the Prime Ministers of Canada: sent Christmas present to adopted child in B.W.I. **Dunham**: Mrs. Riordan showed slides of a trip to England and other European countries; donations to Northern Branches, student to U N Seminar; congratulations sent to Belvedere WI on their 50th birthday. **Stanbridge East**: Dr. Baker of Macdonald College showed slides of tour through the Holy Land, Pakistan, India and China; roll call answered by telling about Fathers of Confederation; contest on history and geography; used clothing sent to Unitarian Relief; donated prizes to Protestant School and to the Catholic School for their Library; collected Halloween UNICEF.

**PAPINEAU**: **Lochaber** entertained members of **Aylmer WI**; guest speaker was Mr. Turner, principal of Buckingham High

School, speaking on Winston Churchill; Contest on naming Governors General since Confederation, with three members having eight correct names.

**PONTIAC**: **Beechgrove**: Warble Fly Control discussed as a neighbourhood concern to all herd owners, and the importance of control was stressed; Modern System of Reading explained; a member spoke on her experience at Principals Workshop at Sherbrooke, Que., where speakers included Mr. Riley, Supt. of Schools, N.Y. State, Dr. Elizabeth Howard, N.Y., and Dr. Billings, Dept. of Education, Quebec; Contest — 16 Ways of Cooking: quilt sold with proceeds to Cystic Fibrosis Ass'n, and to Retarded Children's Fund. **Bristol** saw slides of Hamilton, Peterborough and Toronto, with important historical items of each place named; doctor spoke on "New Drugs": agriculture discussion on the small share of the loaf that comes to the farmer; article on dentistry read; had new steps built at Bristol Hall and made plans to have hall redecorated. **Clarendon** saw film on Basic Foods; talk by doctor on First Aid in the Home; each member brought roll of cotton for Cancer Society; toured Senior Citizen's Manor; exhibited at two Fairs. **Fort Coulonge**: Horticulture received special attention with such topics as proper mulching, cuttings from new plants, winter care of plants; papers on preparing vegetables for the table, letter-writing in the Gay '90s; articles read from Federated News; coloured slides shown of many places of interest in the USA. **Quyon**: speaker and discussion of Care of Meat in the Home; spelling prizes given at 3 schools; exhibited at 2 fairs; held bake sale; farewell gift to member of many years standing who is moving to another province. **Shawville** enjoyed outing in form of picnic at Kingsmere, former summer home of Right Hon. McKenzie King, which is furnished with antiques and souvenirs of his trips abroad; exhibited at 2 fairs; donated to Cemetery Fund, Red Cross, Ice Fund; sponsored canvassing for the blind; held progressive dinner; editor of local paper addressed the branch. **Wyman** held several contests; raised funds for Pontiac Community Hospital.

**RICHMOND**: **Cleveland** held contest on Apple Pies, with Mrs. R. Healy and Mrs. G. Healy winners; held quiz on coat of arms of the provinces; held Hallowe'en Children's Party. **Gore**: Citizenship Convener read articles on Everybody Likes History and H. Gordon Green Says; donated to Quebec Service Fund and to Northern Extension Fund; Quiz on Provincial Coat of Arms won by Mrs. A. Scott; 600 cancer dressings handed in; magazine subscription given to St. Francis High School; poppies sold: Members were given Hyacinth Bulbs to plant for competition. **Melbourne Ridge** held contest on jumbled names of ailments and diseases, won by Mrs. E. Crock and Mrs. G. Johnson; bought poppies; brought in children's gifts; bought special Christmas gifts for five children at the Dixville Home; money gift to member's son who is attending Macdonald College; donations to UNICEF and Dixville Home; catered for the Legion Banquet. **Richmond Hill** discussed Picnic Tables project; bought poppies; placed wreath at the Cenotaph; donated to Quebec Service Fund; toured Denisons Co. store. **Shipton**: held card party with proceeds to the Goodwill Community Fund; bought poppies. **Spooner Pond** donated to Quebec Service Fund and to Wales Home; bought poppies; placed wreath at the Cenotaph; held Chinese auction sale of Home Baking, and sale of Surprise Boxes; contest on songs of war years, won by Mrs. B. Taylor.

**ROUVILLE**: **Abbotsford** sent gift of jellies to Montreal Diet Dispensary; skit entitled "The Game" presented by five members, the theme was the present boycott of chain stores; points of view expressed by all parties concerned as reported in the press was basis for the skit; members then made their own survey on prices by placing the week's bill for food on a chart.

**SHEFFORD**: **Granby Hill** held discussion on good prices, favourite recipe in writing was the roll call; regular box sent to Forgotten Patient; toured Bruck's Mills; catered banquet for Brownies and Guides; contest on jumbled letters of items found in a grocery store. **Granby West** helped with placing of a retarded child; collected old catalogues for Butters' Home, bought flannelette for diapers for this home, with two members volunteering to make them; two members made bandages for Cancer Society; entertained County President: visited a greenhouse which specializes in growing orchids and where a banana tree was seen and admired; pennies for friendship collected.



said sad farewell to Mrs. Cole, member who is moving to Ontario, with a gift.

**SHERBROOKE:** Belvedere: continued their 50th Anniversary Celebrations when they enjoyed a turkey banquet at the Masonic Hall in Sherbrooke with the Eastern Star catering; coloured slides were shown and cards played, making a pleasant evening; Life Memberships were presented to Mrs. Irene Paige, Mrs. Ethel Drummond and Mrs. Myrtle Pitman; donated to Northern Extension Fund; Mrs. Sharon gave good report of successful UNICEF collection and the party for children on Hallowe'en. **Brompton Road** donated to Northern Extension and Quebec Service Funds; held UNICEF card party; then held another card party to raise funds for Sherbrooke County's 50th Anniversary celebration; Mrs. E. Decoteau gave radio broadcast, and presented six English-French dictionaries to Mitchell School in Memoriam to the late Miss Verna Hatch; scrapbooks given to school for Retarded children; worked at cancer dressing station. **Lennoxville** entertained Miss Edna Smith, County President; articles read on fall care of shrubs, and on Thanksgiving; visited local museum; held poster competition with prizes; donated to Northern Extension Fund and to UNICEF collectors' party. **Milby** reports Mrs. A. Suitor and Mrs. W. Suitor attended CAC meeting where panel discussion

took place on the High Cost of Food; naming of roads project started in 1963, now continuing with Ascot and Belvedere branches joining.

**STANSTEAD:** Ayers Cliff: Mr. Struthers of Stanstead was guest speaker at the invitation of Mrs. E. Astbury, Conv. of Education. **Stanstead North:** Name the Presidents Quiz held; roll call answered by naming a Cabinet Minister, Provincial or Federal; successful rummage sale, and a silent food sale held. **Tomifobia:** President reported on new Regional School planned for Brome County area, which is to be an experiment in cooperation between the Catholic and Protestant school systems: discussion followed on necessity of cooperation and better understanding between both religious and cultural groups in our province; roll call was to say a sentence in French well enough to be understood; donated to Northern Extension Fund, and to student fund for UN Seminar.

**VAUDREUIL:** Harwood's meeting featured Publicity, under convenorship of Mrs. Prinn, who planned some "Instant Theatre" with a skit "How Not to Conduct a Meeting"; several members with no previous rehearsal took part; this proved amusing as did the Quiz and game with Publicity as the theme; donated to Quebec Service Fund and to Northern Extension; flowers sent to member ill in nursing home. □

## POTATO QUALITY —

(continued from page 13)

prolonged storage. Because a blanching process is often introduced in the production of French fries, the achievement of proper color is not as critical as in the production of chips. But size and shape of potatoes take on greater importance. Until the plant breeders come up with a square potato, the industry will have to invent by-products to utilize short and misshapen slices from the sloping sides of the tuber. The public is adamant. It wants a French fry of perfect geometric form, long, with squared-off ends, firm, tender, mealy, not greasy, golden brown outside and creamy white inside.

The plant breeders at the Fredericton Research Station, in their attempts to satisfy the taste demands of the public and the economic demands of the growers, have given the industry several new varieties in the past few years.

Keswick, for instance, is a potato with good table quality, combined with the ability to make both French fries and chips early in the season. For the fry trade alone, the growers in the State of Maine planted 500 acres of Keswick in 1965.

Fundy and Hunter are varieties highly rated for their table quality, and Grand Falls, introduced primarily for the starch industry, has proved an excellent table potato and a splendid French frier.

The variety Avon was released for the chipping trade, but it also is an excellent table potato and has the added advantage of early sizing.

The potato industry is getting more and more specific as time goes on. The search for new varieties with special attributes continues. And in the testing laboratory of the CDA Research Station in Fredericton, samples will continue to be selected, cooked, tasted, and scored in the endless quest for the perfect potato. □

## GRAIN CORN CONTEST

The average yield of the ten prize-winning competitors in the provincial grain-corn growing contest of 1966 was 126.5 bushels to the acre as compared with 88.3 in 1965.

Mr. Jean Overbeck of St-Thomas-d'Aquin in the county of St-Hyacinthe, who came first in the competition, harvested 138 bushels to the acre, whereas the leading competitor in 1965 averaged 127. He thus became the winner of a prize of \$150, awarded by the Department of Agriculture and Colonization, and of "Les Engrais Chimiques du Québec Inc." trophy which was presented to him by Mr. Maurice Hardy.

While growing conditions in 1966 were definitely more favourable than in 1965, there is no doubt that the use of improved methods resulting from more thorough understanding of the needs of this crop was mainly responsible for the increased yield. The growers are starting to acquire the knack. On the basis of their past experience, they are paying more attention to such factors as better-drained soil, earlier and denser seeding, more generous use of fertilizer, and more effective weed control.

The names of the winners were announced at the Institute of Agricultural Technology in St-Hyacinthe on November 15th, when Mr. Nazaire Parent, Mr. Jean Hardy, and Mr. Denis Bastien, representing the Department of Agriculture and Colonization; Mr. Maurice Hardy, managing-secretary of Quebec Fertilizers Inc.; and Mr. Gaétan Lussier, agent for American Potash, congratulated the prizewinners listed below and stressed the advantages that might be gained from intensifying production of this crop.

1st Jean Overbeck, St-Thomas d'Aquin  
2nd Jacques Houde, St. Barnabé-Sud

3rd Réal Langlois, St-Charles  
4th Bernard Blouin, St-Barnabé-Sud  
5th Jacques Désautels, St-Pie  
6th Jean-Claude Massé, St-Césaire  
7th Fernand Cournoyer, St-Simon  
8th Allen Radley, Lacolle  
9th Louis-Philippe Piché, St-Pie  
10th Antoine Asnong, Pike River

These prizewinners shared a total of \$700 in awards offered by the Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

The judges were Mr. Noël Faust and Mr. Denis Bastien.

## The St-Hyacinthe regional grain-corn contest

As the St-Hyacinthe area is in a particularly favourable grain-corn growing zone, the county agricultural representative, Mr. Bernard Cossette, and his assistants organized a special regional contest in 1966 for the second year in succession exclusively for farmers of St-Hyacinthe County. The prizes for this contest were awarded during the same ceremony at which the prizes for the provincial contest were distributed. The St-Hyacinthe contest, under the patronage of the local agricultural society, produced results comparable with those of the provincial competition, and Mr. Jean Overbeck again came first. □



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by Norma E. Holmes

## MOUNTAINS and LAKES and ITALY

Dear Min:

We had come over the Julier Pass and now crossed the Ofen Pass into Italy. Then miles of apple orchards and grape vines on racks, also vineyards on the mountain sides. They have enormous peaches and pears, but they had been harvested as had most of the grapes. Overnight at Bolzano, which was the capitol of the Tyrol and is still more Austrian than Italian. June and I always drew the 4th floor, or the 5th if there was a 5th. I must have looked a lot younger than I felt. The next day being Sunday we strolled around and stared at the short green pants, embroidered suspenders and feathered hats of the men and they stared right back at our Indian girl. I believe they thought she had put on a fancy costume just for them, so they had a right to stare and stare they did. They would form a ring around her in little knots of men, women and children, so, getting into the spirit of things she took off her cardigan — rain and all — to give them a better view of her sari and started bowing and thanking them like a queen holding court.

We entered the Dolomites and the mountains showed less greenery and more bare rocks. We stayed that night at Cortina in a new hotel all gleaming — and slippery — white marble in all directions and a lovely view (past the geraniums) from our windows of a misty valley in a pocket of mountains. The next morning some left the bus (in the rain) to visit the rink which is the home base of the hockey champions of Italy. I didn't come to see rinks, nor snow, being allergic to snow especially on my vacations — which the New Zealanders and Austrians

couldn't understand — so stayed in the bus. Probably would have been warmer in the rink. Roger explained that he hadn't been driving long enough to get the bus 'warmed up' as we had just left the hotel. Somebody remarked they had actually seen people in America 'leaving the motor running just to keep the car warm when they weren't even in it'. I had just opened my mouth to suggest Roger do just that, but that closed it. Those madly extravagant Americans!!!!

We passed Landerence where, on a night in 1961, the dam gave way on the mountain top, rocks falling into the valley created a tidal wave, and 4000 people along with their homes were swept away without trace. The valley shows nothing now but a mud flat. A few houses, some half destroyed, cling to the higher levels on the opposite side from the mountain.

We arrived at Venice-Mestre, suburb of Venice, in early afternoon. A fine hotel with beautiful twinkling chandeliers and lots of dark red tile on the bedroom floor and all over the big bathroom. But someone should tell them about shower curtains. The shower came from the ceiling and landed on the floor, spreading in all directions so the second man in had to don rubber boots.

In the evening (although some couldn't wait that long) we all took off for Venice. We had to cross a bridge a mile and a quarter long. Roger parked the bus on the Piazza Roma and we took a passenger boat down the Grand Canal. The place we waited for the boat was so much like the boat itself that the second time there I was looking for a seat to sit down before we started

moving, and discovered I was still on dry land.

We spent all the next day in Venice. What a place! The narrow streets are level with the store floors and mid morning, coming out of a store, water was swooshing up the end of the street and the stores were offering big bargains before they were cut off from the tourists. They said it was unusual for this tide to appear in September — not many tourists see it. I suppose we should have been grateful, but as it was also raining I could have done without the sight. Temporary wooden sidewalks appeared in the middle of some streets and to the buildings in St. Marks Square. The natives had their rubber boots on (most carry them with them) and little boys sailed boats. The water disappeared around 2 o'clock and orchestras were playing in the Square and you no longer had to swim to the tables and chairs.

Venice consists of a group of islands and the buildings are built on a million and a half (you will have to take their word for it. I didn't count them) sharpened tree trunks for pilings. The tops of these after 400 years of winds and waves and little old bacteria are rotting away and the city is sinking. These flooding periods are becoming more and more frequent and in time probably in even thirty or forty years, the first floors will be water (indoor swimming pools?), unless a lot of money is spent soon to save this fascinating city. The pigeons in St. Mark's Square are taking swimming lessons and wondering if it is too late to grow webbed feet.... (More about Venice next time).

Elois